

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 244 187 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 20.11.1991

(21) Application No 9011013.1

(22) Date of filing 16.05.1990

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(51) INT CL⁵
H04N 7/18

(52) UK CL (Edition K)
H4F FAA FD24
U1S S1820

(56) Documents cited
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WO 90/01853 A1

(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition K) H4F FAA
INT CL⁵ H04N

(54) Video camera mounted in the front side of a vehicle

(57) A small video camera 3 mounted in the front side 6 of a car and connected to a small screen 15 incorporated within the dashboard enables drivers to see around obstructions without manoeuvring half as much of the vehicle into the road. The camera is automatically switched on and off by operating the vehicle's direction indicator arm 12.

Fig 1

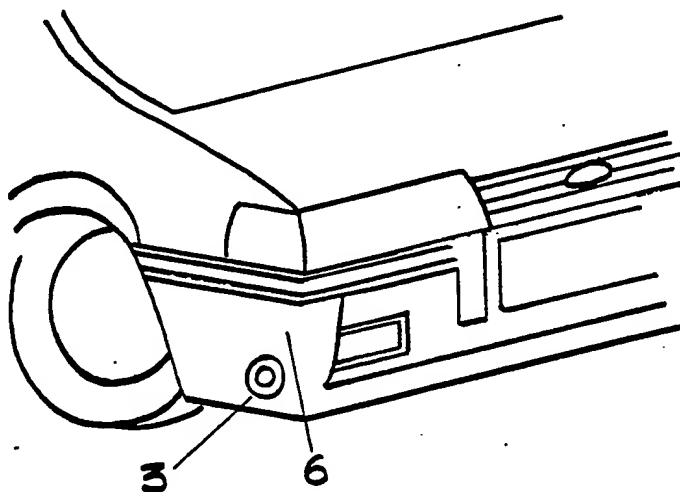
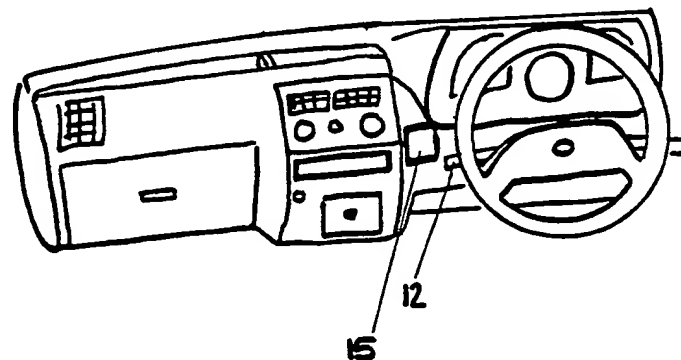


Fig 3



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Fig 1

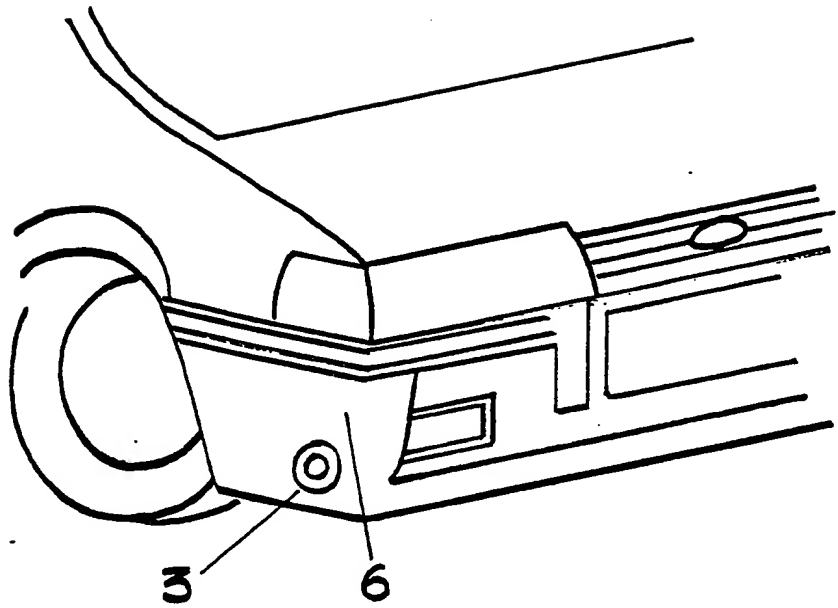


Fig 2

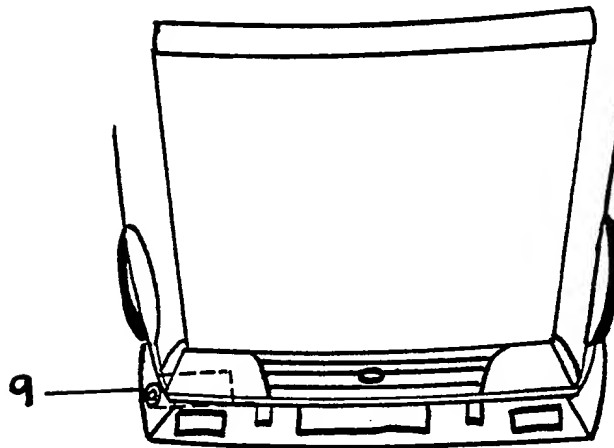
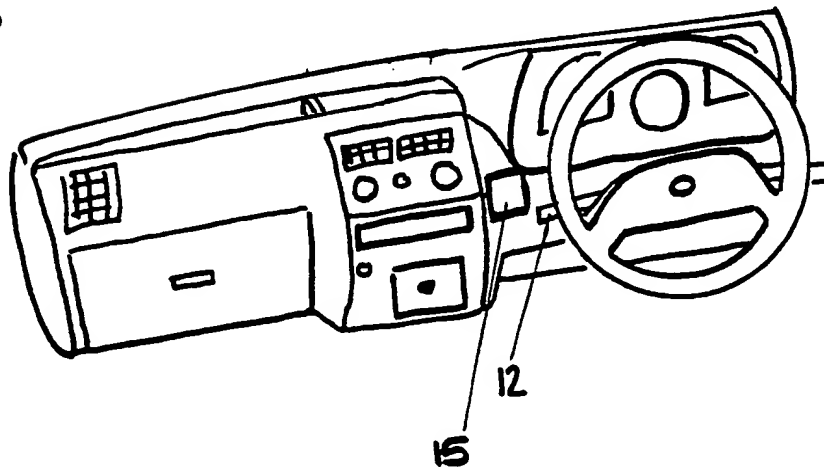


Fig 3



This invention relates to a small video camera mounted within the front of a car for visual use on traffic.

The majority of drivers will know, that at times, when leaving a side road or turning to enter a main road, if another vehicle is parked adjacent to where you are, that vehicle tends to become an obstruction of your vision of the oncoming traffic. Therefore, the driver edges out further into the road, until he or she can see the oncoming traffic clearly. By this time, the oncoming traffic has to stop, as there is not enough space for the traffic to swerve around the vehicle. This is all very well, but if a driver of the oncoming traffic suddenly had his or her attention distracted, a minor or major accident could arise.

Therefore, the installation and use of a small video camera mounted in the front right side bumper of a car or van, which is connected to a small screen incorporated within the interior dashboard would reduce the amount of maneuvering of the vehicle out into the road and would be beneficial for that driver and of that of other road users.

Video Camera's come in all shapes and sizes and are relatively expensive, but the smaller camera's are less expensive as they have less functions and features.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which -

Figure 1 shows in perspective, the exact location of the camera on the car body.

Figure 2 shows a plan view of the car bonnet with dotted lines representing the position of the camera through the bonnet.

Figure 3 shows the location of the small screen incorporated within the interior dashboard on which the relay picture will be seen.

Referring to fig 1 the camera lens 3 is the only part of the camera which is noticeable, it is also flush with the surrounding part of the car 6 which it is mounted in. An exact position of the camera 9 is shown in fig 2.

In order to operate the system, the indicator arm 12 has to be maneuvered to its up or down position - by doing this, the camera is automatically switched on, then the picture is relayed onto the small screen 15 which is incorporated within the dashboard, as illustrated
5 in fig3. When the indicator arm 12 is returned to its normal position, the camera is automatically switched off.

CLAIMS

1 A small video camera mounted within the front of a motor car for visual use on traffic, enables the driver of that vehicle to see the oncoming traffic through a small screen incorporated within the interior dashboard, before the driver decides to maneuver the vehicle out into the
5 main road.

2 A small video camera as claimed in Claim 1 will reduce the amount of maneuvering and amount of vehicle to be forced out into the road in order that the driver can see the oncoming traffic past a parked vehicle.

10 3 A small video camera as claimed in Claim 1 will help to reduce the amount of damage to cars and or accidents which involve their drivers from collisions which sometimes happen from vehicles edging out into the road in front of oncoming traffic.